



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

Proposed Bill 6653

An Act Concerning Municipalities

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey

Planning and Development Committee

February 13, 2015

As the agency responsible for State Building Code adoption, enforcement, and continuing education of local building officials, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and specifically the Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI) offers the following testimony regarding Senate Bill 6653 "An Act Concerning Municipalities."

The agency has concerns specific to subsection (4) which proposes *to modify the building code such that the term in which a building permit is invalidated, suspended or abandoned is based on a value of work standard*, not a fixed one-hundred-eighty-day period as is currently required.

Currently, once a permit is issued it is valid unless work has not commenced within 180 days or if no work has taken place for a period of 180 days. These time frames apply to all projects regardless of size. DAS has concerns with the administrative difficulties for the local building officials in enforcing varying expiration times based on the size and/or complexity of a project. How would these time frames be determined and who would set them? Would the State be responsible for developing this matrix, or would it be left to each municipality to set their own, as they are allowed to do with permit and other fees?

We would be glad to work with the proponents to understand the underlying issues related to the proposal and to develop solutions that address the issues and are practical and enforceable by the local building official.

DAS thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on HB 6653.